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ABSTRACT

This book is designed to develop a general conceptualization of equality of educational opportunity and to use it to characterize the problems confronting public education in the United States. It is argued that educational opportunities and educational results cannot be disentangled. After an overview in chapter 1, chapter 2, "A Radical Liberal Framework," discusses formal, compensatory, and participatory equality of education. How the participatory interpretation united equality of educational opportunity with democracy and justice is a central theme of the book. Chapter 3, "Gender," documents the inequality of educational results between males and females. In chapter 4, "Multiculturalism," the problem of multicultural education is framed in terms of how to respond to the fact that doing well in school is harder for some groups than others. Chapter 5, "Segregation," discusses segregation between and within schools. In chapter 6, "Testing," various proposals to implement more rigorous standards are evaluated in light of what they mean for equal education. Chapter 7, "School Choice," considers school choice and rationales supporting it. The conclusion summarizes the case for the liberal approach to equal educational opportunity. (Contains 219 references.) (SLD)

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